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News

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Floyd Rabil (202) 272-5173
William Cook (202) 272-5173
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

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CONSUMER PRICES: FOOD - August 1980

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor today released the first of a new series of average retail prices for food. These average prices are compiled from data collected by the BLS in conjunction with the Consumer Price Index and will be available monthly for the U.S. city average and four major geographic areas.

Average prices are best used to measure the price level in a particular month, not to measure price change over time. To measure change over time, the Consumer Price Index and its component indexes for individual items are more appropriate. The average food prices in this release reflect variations in brand, quality, and size among geographic areas. Users of average food prices should be aware that these differences exist.

The Bureau is continuing developmental work on average retail food prices and will publish additional data when resources permit. Data back to January 1980 are available upon request. The price data in this release reflect prices paid by consumers in July and August 1980.

Average retail food prices, U.S. city average and four regions 1/

Food and unit	U.S. average		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980
Cereals and bakery products:										
Flour, white, all purpose...lb.	$0.244	$0.245	$0.223	$0.227	$0.210	$0.209	$0.236	$0.235	$0.284	$0.285
Rice, white, long grain, precooked...lb.	1.243	1.236	NA	NA	1.263	1.261	NA	NA	1.236	1.244
Rice, white, long grain, uncooked...lb.	.523	.518	.608	.597	NA	NA	.434	.431	.549	.547
Spaghetti...lb.	.680	NA	NA	NA	.725	.741	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bread, white, pan...lb.	.521	.507	.577	.574	.493	.495	.448	.451	.498	.474
Bread, French...lb.	.784	.784	NA	NA	NA	NA	.736	.739	.819	.827
Bread, rye, pan...lb.	NA	NA	NA	NA	.709	.720	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bread, whole wheat, pan...lb.	.735	.741	NA	NA	.709	.698	.736	.735	.698	.700
Bread, wheat blend, pan...lb.	.541	.538	NA	NA	NA	NA	.508	.507	.532	.532
Rolls, hamburger...lb.	.747	.757	.957	1.002	.712	.715	.562	.580	.695	.712
Cupcakes, chocolate...lb.	1.567	1.610	1.605	1.611	1.471	1.545	1.606	1.746	1.576	1.578
Cookies, chocolate chip...lb.	1.536	1.600	1.681	1.728	1.505	1.513	1.503	1.589	1.508	1.662
Crackers, soda, salted...lb.	.854	.872	.871	.876	.795	.811	.851	.850	.912	.902
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs:										
Meats:										
Beef and veal:										
Ground chuck, 100% beef...lb.	1.780	1.842	1.805	1.854	1.715	1.758	1.825	1.888	1.787	1.854
Chuck roast, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	1.805	1.808	1.804	1.809	1.758	1.734	1.853	1.866	1.841	1.850
Round roast, U.S. Choice, boneless...lb.	2.599	2.620	2.593	2.568	2.474	2.524	2.737	2.760	2.581	2.581
Rib roast, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	2.915	2.978	2.960	2.973	2.853	2.841	2.915	3.004	2.951	3.024
Steak, round, U.S. Choice, boneless...lb.	2.769	2.793	2.947	3.001	2.706	2.647	3.043	3.159	2.833	2.859
Steak, sirloin, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	3.037	3.102	3.140	3.129	2.893	2.951	3.111	3.260	3.030	NA
Steak, chuck, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	1.608	1.653	1.552	1.614	1.643	1.644	1.732	1.776	1.526	1.578
Steak, T-bone, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	3.755	3.857	3.976	NA	3.698	3.785	3.774	3.885	3.617	3.672
Steak, porterhouse, U.S. Choice, bone-in...lb.	3.755	3.966	3.818	3.947	3.915	4.064	3.352	NA	4.000	NA
Pork:										
Bacon, sliced...lb.	1.371	1.469	1.457	1.595	1.392	1.387	1.280	1.441	1.350	1.482
Chops, center cut, bone-in...lb.	1.991	2.006	1.970	2.014	1.791	1.914	1.984	2.034	2.031	2.148
Ham, rump or shank half, bone-in, smoked...lb.	1.222	1.249	1.311	1.453	1.010	1.189	1.083	1.171	1.263	1.363
Ham, rump portion, bone-in, smoked...lb.	1.076	1.196	1.092	NA	.992	NA	1.053	1.157	1.245	1.383
Ham, shank portion, bone-in, smoked...lb.	.977	1.047	.965	NA	.907	NA	1.010	1.068	1.087	NA
Shoulder roast, Blade Boston, bone-in...lb.	1.439	1.371	1.330	NA	1.287	1.340	1.205	1.362	1.504	NA
Sirloin roast, bone-in...lb.	1.410	1.466	1.614	NA	1.244	1.331	1.495	NA	1.426	1.436
Shoulder picnic, bone-in, smoked...lb.	.912	.938	.984	1.074	.905	.953	.851	.929	1.016	NA
Sausage, fresh, pork, loose...lb.	1.348	1.383	1.189	NA	1.249	1.308	1.402	1.499	1.384	1.475
Ham, canned, 3 or 5 lbs...lb.	2.196	2.278	2.214	2.284	2.281	2.352	2.163	2.224	2.143	2.228
Other meats:										
Frankfurters, all meat...lb.	1.600	1.711	1.658	1.718	1.525	1.680	1.673	1.766	1.522	1.672
Bologna...lb.	1.921	1.996	1.988	2.072	1.931	1.956	1.829	1.947	2.041	2.075
Beef liver...lb.	1.085	1.108	.971	.992	1.074	1.126	1.153	1.161	1.165	1.189
Poultry:										
Chicken, fresh, whole...lb.	.730	.751	.719	.768	.689	.725	.688	.732	.774	.811
Chicken breast, bone-in...lb.	1.525	1.595	1.577	1.595	1.520	1.595	1.284	1.311	1.537	1.622
Chicken legs, bone-in...lb.	1.067	1.127	.918	.970	NA	NA	1.189	1.221	1.280	1.368
Turkey, frozen, whole...lb.	.918	.935	.956	.969	.912	.957	.898	.895	.906	.946
Fish and seafood:										
Tuna, light, chunk...lb.	2.380	2.448	2.304	2.357	2.423	2.436	2.364	2.532	2.425	2.452
Eggs:										
Grade A, large...doz.	.776	.907	.841	.994	.757	.862	.742	.880	NA	NA
Grade AA, large...doz.	.755	.847	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	.729	.829
Dairy products:										
Milk, fresh, whole, fortified...1/2 gal.	1.053	1.058	1.011	1.010	1.064	1.054	1.168	1.187	.997	1.010
Milk, fresh, skim...1/2 gal.	.926	.930	.972	.976	.961	.960	1.116	1.118	.821	.829
Milk, fresh, low fat...1/2 gal.	1.019	1.026	1.034	1.026	.997	1.004	1.130	1.138	.936	.973
Butter, salted, grade AA, stick...lb.	1.863	1.899	1.850	1.889	1.845	1.885	1.926	1.967	1.825	1.840
Ice cream, prepackaged, bulk, regular...1/2 gal.	1.831	1.873	2.130	2.160	1.690	1.760	1.803	1.822	1.757	1.779
Yogurt, natural, fruit flavored...1/2 pt.	.476	.480	.489	.488	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued--Average retail food prices, U.S. city average and four regions 1/

Food and unit	U.S. average		Northeast		North Central		South		West	
	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980	July 1980	Aug. 1980
Foods and vegetables:										
Fresh fruits and vegetables:										
Apples, red Delicious, lb.	$0.755	$0.807	$0.739	$0.794	$0.760	$0.826	$0.762	$0.820	$0.727	$0.780
Bananas, lb.	.332	.355	.348	.341	.326	.345	.340	.325	.305	.321
Oranges, navel, lb.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oranges, Valencia, lb.	.338	.367	.348	.361	.394	.421	.321	.395	.307	.315
Cherries, lb.	1.088	NA	1.147	NA	1.080	NA	1.214	NA	.362	NA
Grapefruit, lb.	.377	.415	.391	.415	.385	.421	.380	.442	.333	.374
Grapes, Emperor or Tokay, lb.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Grapes, Thompson seedless, lb.	1.241	1.163	1.313	1.214	1.240	1.179	1.251	1.196	1.112	1.004
Lemons, lb.	.707	.860	.771	.868	.686	.859	.721	.878	.619	.827
Peaches, lb.	.453	.514	.400	.432	.482	.551	.465	.573	.533	.609
Pears, Anjou, lb.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Strawberries, dry pint, 12oz.	NA	NA	NA	NA	.769	NA	NA	NA	.683	NA
Potatoes, white, lb.	.242	.246	.227	.223	.271	.283	.238	.251	.230	.223
Lettuce, iceberg, lb.	.387	.397	.431	.451	.404	.418	.438	.443	.286	.280
Tomatoes, field grown, lb.	.683	.646	.727	.669	.715	.672	.658	.668	.629	.557
Beans, green, snap, lb.	.609	.623	.582	.578	NA	NA	.626	.704	.623	.584
Cabbage, lb.	.296	.243	.256	.203	.316	.255	.324	.279	.293	.253
Carrots, short trimmed and topped, lb.	.344	.348	.335	.340	.366	.362	.403	.422	.277	.280
Celery, lb.	.408	.324	.465	.336	.391	.328	.500	.373	.316	.272
Corn on the cob, lb.	.357	.301	.334	.252	.377	.318	.367	.345	.334	.294
Cucumbers, lb.	.401	.370	.370	.338	.411	.370	.461	.468	.364	.325
Mushrooms, lb.	1.570	1.704	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.574	1.799
Onions, dry yellow, lb.	.322	.310	.360	.344	.347	.340	.332	.326	.245	.226
Onions, green (scallions), lb.	1.067	1.069	NA	NA	1.080	.991	NA	NA	NA	NA
Peppers, sweet, lb.	.772	.708	.605	.528	.876	.840	.926	.911	.782	.677
Radishes, lb.	.579	.597	.582	.636	.599	.623	.770	.728	.449	.455
Processed fruits and vegetables:										
Orange juice, frozen concentrate, 12oz. can, 16oz.	1.153	1.158	1.255	1.282	1.096	1.105	1.074	1.054	1.257	1.247
Potatoes, frozen, French fried, lb.	.541	.554	NA	NA	.545	.552	.502	.503	NA	NA
Tomatoes, canned, whole, lb.	.423	.429	.447	.454	.427	.435	.427	.431	.375	.382
Other foods at home:										
Sugar and sweets:										
Hard candy, solid, lb.	1.470	1.484	1.252	1.290	1.504	1.499	1.390	1.386	1.837	1.906
Sugar, white, all sizes, lb.	.465	.462	.508	.515	.447	.448	.457	.453	.453	.433
Sugar, white, 33-80 oz. pkg., lb.	.455	.452	.491	.494	.441	.444	.448	.443	.435	.415
Jelly, lb.	.818	.817	.746	.757	.803	.748	.798	.856	NA	NA
Fats and oils:										
Margarine, vegetable oil blends, stick, lb.	.730	.721	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	.690	.730
Margarine, vegetable oil blends, soft, tubs, lb.	.859	.862	NA	NA	.854	NA	NA	NA	.850	.845
Shortening, vegetable oil blends, lb.	.763	.770	.819	.832	.746	.741	.739	.754	.746	.757
Nonalcoholic beverages:										
Cola, nondiet, returnable bottles, 6 or 8 pk., 16oz.	.248	.256	.256	.265	.237	.244	.238	.261	.279	.266
Cola, nondiet, returnable bottles, 24-40 oz., 16oz.	.238	.245	NA	NA	NA	NA	.206	.202	.253	.262
Cola nondiet, cans, 72oz. 6 pk., 16oz.	.413	.431	.413	.417	.436	.452	NA	.418	.390	.428
Coffee, 100%, ground roast, all sizes, lb.	3.233	3.230	3.315	3.314	3.251	3.254	3.114	3.143	3.145	3.087
Coffee, 100%, ground roast, 13.1-20 oz. can, lb.	3.213	3.182	3.289	3.284	3.221	3.169	3.072	3.062	3.266	3.146
Coffee, instant, plain, 3.1-6 oz., 16oz.	9.277	9.110	9.099	9.053	NA	NA	9.020	8.925	NA	NA
Coffee, instant, plain, 9.1-14 oz., 16oz.	7.958	7.942	NA	NA	7.937	7.853	7.739	7.718	7.591	7.428
Coffee, freeze dried, plain, 3.1-9 oz., 16oz.	11.669	11.671	11.929	11.894	11.886	11.861	11.228	11.256	11.480	11.537
Other prepared foods:										
Potato chips, 16oz.	2.012	2.046	1.997	2.053	1.886	1.917	2.131	2.150	2.073	2.089
Pork and beans, canned, 16oz.	.351	.355	.349	.351	.345	.354	.350	.352	.369	.375

1/ Regions are defined as the four Census regions.
NA/ Data not available for publication.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Beginning in February 1978, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) issued revised Consumer Price Indexes. The Bureau's previous report on average food prices, Estimated Retail Food Prices by City, was compiled from the unrevised CPI and was discontinued in June 1978.

In the revised CPI, actual weighted average prices are calculated each month at the national level and for the four Census geographic regions. Due to changes in compilation methods, the price data published in this report are not strictly comparable with those from the unrevised CPI-W. In the unrevised CPI-W, average food prices were estimated by the movement of the CPI.

As a result of changes in price collection methodology and sample sizes, average prices for individual cities cannot in general be produced. It is hoped, however, that regional average prices will help satisfy the need for local area data.

Because a number of food commodities are not available in all areas on a year-round basis, prices will not appear in some months for some regions or for the United States city average. In other instances, sufficient prices may not be available due to temporary disruptions in supplies. Where no average prices are available, the designation NA will appear--average prices not available. When a price is not available from an individual store in any month, an estimated price will be calculated for the missing item and used in computing the average price. In cases where the proportion of estimated prices used to calculate the average is considered too high, the average price will not be published and NA will appear for that item in the table.

Because of space limitations in the table, the description for each item is abbreviated. More detailed specifications are available from BLS Regional Offices or from the Washington Office upon request.

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